AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE DIVIDER 37 CFR 1.116

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Title: ASSAY FOR CARBOHYDRATE-FREE TRANSFERRIN

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sample is blood or obtained from blood.

3. (Amended) [A] <u>The</u> method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate_binding ligand is selected from the group consisting of antibodies, [or] antibody fragments [thereof], lectins, [and] mammalian [or] <u>carbohydrate-binding proteins</u>, microbial carbohydrate-binding proteins, and mixtures thereof.

- 4. (Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in step (a) a panel of more than one type of lectin is used as a carbohydrate binding ligand.
- 5. (Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate-binding ligand is selected from the group consisting of Sambucus nigra lectin, Sambucus sielbodiana lectin, wheatgerm agglutinin, Maackia amurensis lectin, E. coli K99 lectin, Helicobacter pylori lectin, Ricinus communis lectin, [and] Crotalaria junctae lectin, [and] anti-sialic acid antibodies, and mixtures thereof.
- 6. (Amended) [A] <u>The</u> method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the separation step (b) is by precipitation, centrifugation, filtration or chromatographic methods.
- 7. (Amended) [A] <u>The</u> method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate_binding ligand is immobilized.
- 8. (Amended) [A] <u>The</u> method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an ion exchange step to remove or deplete carbohydrate-carrying transferrins in the sample is performed prior to step (a).
- 9. (Amended) [A] <u>The</u> method as claimed in claim 1, wherein [the determination of] <u>determining the</u> transferrin content in step (c) is achieved by turbidometric or nephelometric means.